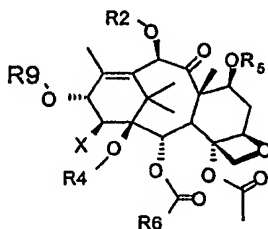


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) ~~Compound A~~ a compound of formula III



III

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of -N<sub>3</sub>, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH-R<sub>3</sub>, =CH-R<sub>8</sub>, ~~or~~ and -O-R<sub>3</sub> when R<sub>6</sub> is different from phenyl,

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or acyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy carbonyl or, taken together with R<sub>4</sub>, forms a carbonyl, thiocarbonyl, SO, SO<sub>2</sub> group;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or, taken together with R<sub>3</sub> or R<sub>8</sub>, forms the groups specified in the respective definitions of R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>;

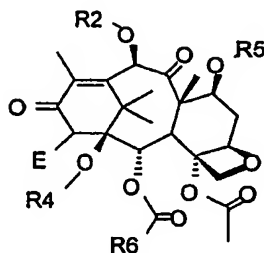
R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen or an alcohol-protecting group;

R<sub>6</sub> is aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, with the proviso that ~~it~~ R<sub>6</sub> is different from phenyl when X = OR<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy carbonyl or, taken together with R<sub>4</sub>, forms a carbonyl group;

R<sub>9</sub> is an acyl or hydroxyaminoacyl group.

2. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula III from ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula II

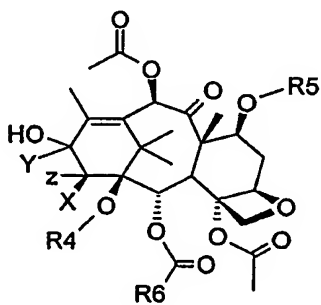


wherein

E is selected from the group consisting of  $-N_3$ ,  $-NH-R_3$ ,  $=CH-R_8$  ~~or~~ and  $-O-R_3$  when  $R_6$  is different from phenyl, and  $R_2$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_4$  and  $R_6$  are as defined ~~in~~ according to claim 1,

which process comprises:

a) reduction of the C13 carbonyl to give compounds of formula VII



VII

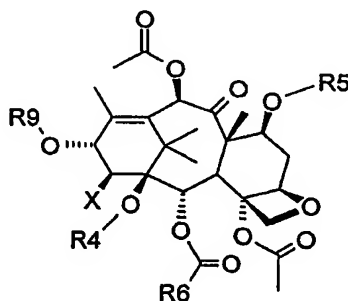
wherein

X is  $-O-R_3$ ,  $-N_3$ ,  $-NH-R_3$ ,  $-CH_2-R_8$ ;

Y and Z are hydrogen or, when X is  $-CH_2-R_8$ , are taken together to form a double bond;

and the other groups are defined as above;

b) esterification at the 13-position with derivatives of acids of formula IX to give compounds of formula VIII



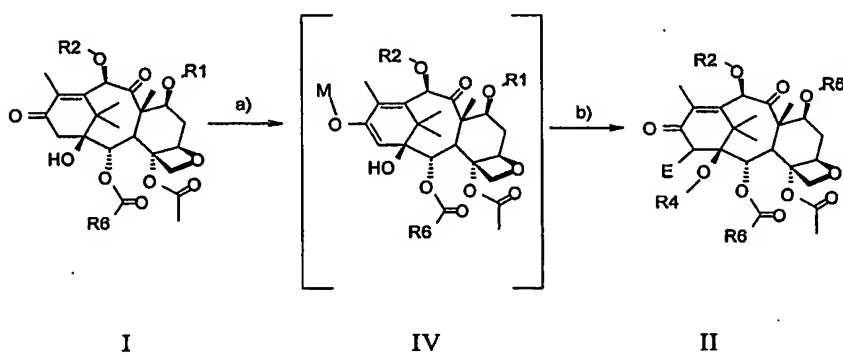
VIII

wherein

R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and X are as defined above;

c) optional cleavage of the protective groups.

3. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula II from ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula I,



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is an alcohol-protecting group;

R<sub>2</sub> is an acyl group or an alcohol-protecting group;

E is  $[-OH,]$   $-O-R_3$ ,  $=N_2$ ,  $-N_3$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH-R_3$ ,  $-NH-NH_2$ ,  $-NH-N=N-Ts$ ,  $-NH-N=N-Boc$ ,  $-N(CO_2R_7)NHCO_2R_7$ ,  $=CH-R_8$ ;

Ts is p-toluenesulfonyl;

$R_3$  is  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy carbonyl or, taken together with  $R_4$ , forms a carbonyl, thiocarbonyl, SO,  $SO_2$  group;

$R_4$  is hydrogen or, taken together with  $R_3$  or  $R_8$ , forms the groups specified in the respective definitions of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$ ;

$R_5$  is hydrogen or an alcohol-protecting group;

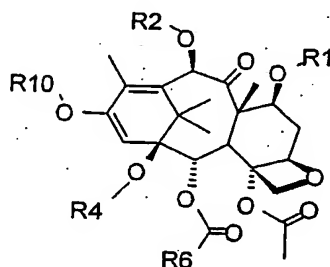
$R_6$  is aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl;

$R_7$  is a  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl group,

$R_8$  is hydrogen,  $C_1-C_4$  alkyl,  $C_1-C_4$  alkoxy carbonyl or, taken together with  $R_4$ , forms a carbonyl group $[[.]]_2$

which process comprises:

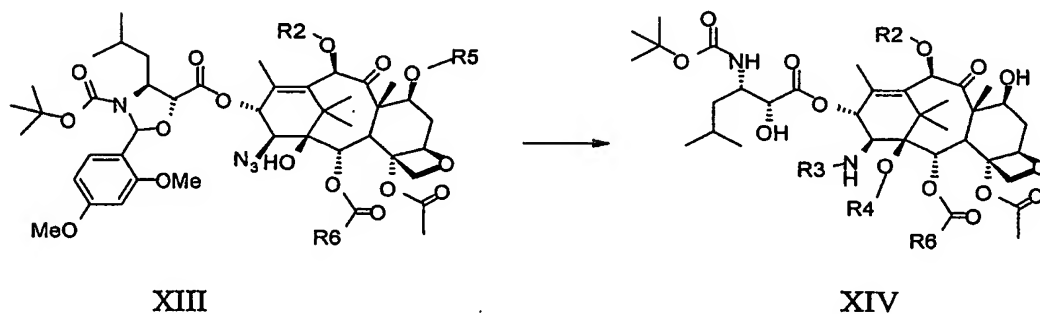
- treating the 7-protected 13-ketobaccatin of formula I with bases to form an enolate intermediate of formula IV;
- quenching the enolate IV with a suitable electrophile which can be converted to an E group or with an acylating, alkylating or silylating agent to give compounds of formula V



V

wherein  $R_{10}$  is an alkyl, acyl or silyl group, which can then be converted into compounds II.

4. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula XIV starting from ~~compounds~~ a compound of formula XIII



wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is an acyl group or an alcohol-protecting group;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, acyl, alkyl or, taken together with R<sub>4</sub>, forms a C=O, C=S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub> group;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or, taken together with R<sub>3</sub>, forms a C=O, C=S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub> group;

R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen or an alcohol-protecting group;

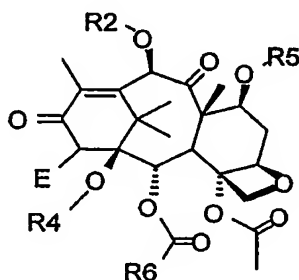
R<sub>6</sub> is aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl;

comprising:

- a) selective reduction of the azido group to amino group;
- b) optional treatment with alkylating or acylating agents;
- c) cleavage of the C7 protective group;
- d) opening of the oxazolidine.

5. (currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula

II



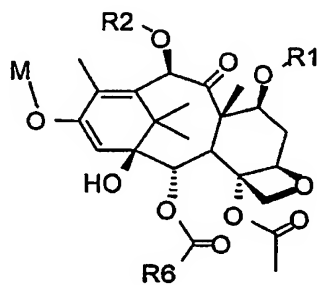
II

wherein

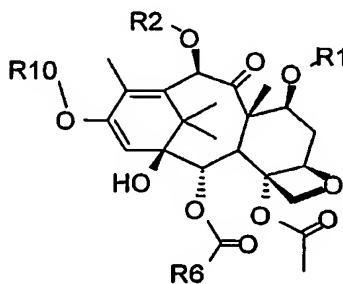
E, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are as defined ~~in~~ according to claim 3.

6. (currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula

IV[[,]] or V



IV



V

wherein

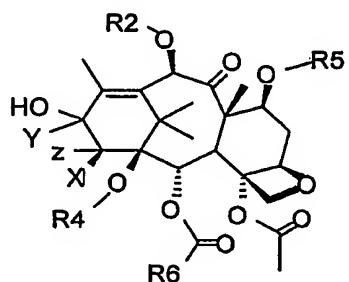
M is an alkali metal;

R<sub>10</sub> is an acyl, alkyl, silyl or phospho group;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> are defined ~~as in~~ according to claim 3.

7. (currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula

VII



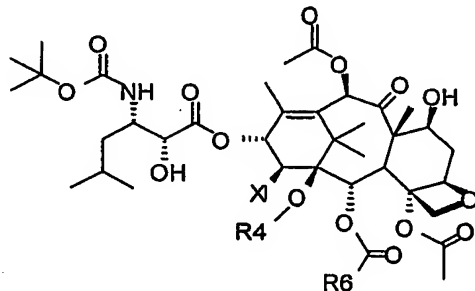
VII

wherein

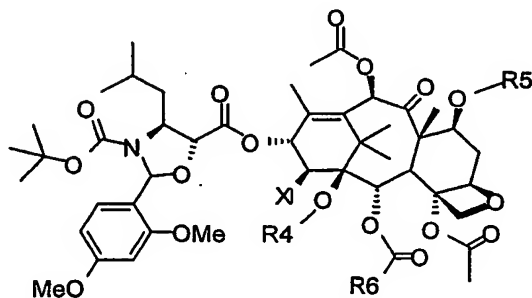
R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, X, Z and Y are as defined in according to claim 2.

8. (currently amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula

XI and or XII



XII



XI

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of  $-N_3$ ,  $-NH-R_3$ ,  $=CH-R_8$ ,  
~~or~~ and  $-O-R_3$  when  $R_6$  is different from phenyl;

$R_3$  is an alkoxycarbonyl or, taken together with  $R_4$ , forms a  
carbonyl, thiocarbonyl, SO, SO<sub>2</sub> group;

$R_4$  is hydrogen or, taken together with  $R_3$  or  $R_8$ , forms the groups  
specified in the respective definitions of  $R_3$  and  $R_8$ ;

$R_6$  is aryl, substituted aryl or heteroaryl;

$R_5$  is hydrogen or an alcohol-protecting group;

$R_8$  is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxycarbonyl or, taken  
together with  $R_4$ , forms a carbonyl group.